

Waking in the Blue: Comprehension Questions

1. What state of mind does the title suggest?
2. Why is the opening image of a B.U sophomore ironic?
3. Why does the Lowell's heart grow tense?
4. How does Lowell represent himself? Consider the simile "as though a harpoon were sparring for the kill."
5. How does Lowell cope with life?
6. What is the effect of the sibilance in "Stanley, now sunk in his sixties"?
7. What makes the image of Stanley absurd?
8. What makes the image of "Bobbie" humorous?
9. How would describe the tone in "These victorious figures of bravado ossified young"
10. What is Lowell saying in that line?
11. How would you describe Lowell's time in the asylum?
12. What do you think Lowell is trying to convey with the corpulence motif he develops in the poem?
 - Whale, Seal, roly poly, sperm whale, two hundred pounds, weight
13. What does Lowell see when he looks into the mirror?
14. How do the last two lines unify the poem?

